

Please amend the Application as follows.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A refractory metal plate comprising:
  - a thickness;
  - a center; and
  - an edge,

wherein said refractory metal plate has a texture that is uniform both through said thickness and from said center to said edge, and  
further wherein said refractory metal plate has,

- (i) a distribution of {100} and {111} crystallographic orientations that varies by less than 30 percent across the surface of any plane of said refractory metal plate, said planes being orthogonal to the thickness of said refractory metal plate, and
- (ii) a distribution of {100} and {111} crystallographic orientations that varies by less than 30 percent across any thickness of said refractory metal plate,

further wherein said refractory metal plate comprises at least 99.99% tantalum.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The refractory metal plate of claim 1 wherein said refractory metal plate has an average grain size of less than 40 microns.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The refractory metal plate of claim 1 comprising at least 99.999% tantalum.

- 6 - 25. (Cancelled)